



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178  
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

**PROJECT TITLE: PROPOSED AMENDED REGULATION III – FEES**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the Lead Agency and has prepared a Notice of Exemption for the project identified above.

The proposed project is amending Regulation III – Fees (Rules 301, 303, 304, 304.1, 306, 307.1, 308, 309, 311, 313, 314, and 315) to incorporate fee updates, new fees, and amendments to multiple rules. SCAQMD staff has reviewed the proposed project pursuant to: 1) CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(k) – General Concepts, the three-step process for deciding which document to prepare for a project subject to CEQA; and 2) CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 – Review for Exemption, procedures for determining if a project is exempt from CEQA.

With respect to the proposed fee updates, new fees, amendments, and administrative changes in Proposed Amended Regulation (PAR) III that are strictly administrative in nature, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Thus, the project is considered to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Activities Covered by General Rule. Additionally, the entirety of the proposed project is statutorily exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges, because the proposed fee updates, new fees, and amendments to Rules 301, 303, 304, 304.1, 306, 307.1, 308, 309, 311, 313, 314, and 315 involve charges by public agencies for the purpose of meeting operating expenses and financial reserve needs and requirements. A Notice of Exemption has been prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062 – Notice of Exemption. If the project is approved, the Notice of Exemption will be filed with the county clerks of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

Any questions regarding this Notice of Exemption should be sent to Barbara Radlein (c/o Planning, Rule Development and Area Sources) at the above address. Ms. Radlein can also be reached at (909) 396-2716. Ms. Elaine Shen is also available at (909) 396-2715 to answer any questions regarding the proposed amended regulation.

**Date:** April 10, 2018

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Barbara Radlein  
Program Supervisor, CEQA Section  
Planning, Rules, and Area Sources

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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<b>To:</b> County Clerks Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino	<b>From:</b> South Coast Air Quality Management District 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, CA 91765
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**Project Title:** Proposed Amended Regulation III – Fees

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**Project Location:** The SCAQMD has jurisdiction over the four-county South Coast Air Basin (all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties), and the Riverside County portions of the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB) and Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB). The SCAQMD’s jurisdiction includes the federal nonattainment area known as the Coachella Valley Planning Area, which is a sub-region of Riverside County and the SSAB.

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**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** Proposed Amended Regulation (PAR) III will: 1) pursuant to Rule 320, increase fees where applicable by 3.4% consistent with the Consumer Price Index; 2) add new fees which are necessary to meet the requirements of recently adopted rules and state mandates; 3) add new fees or increase fee rates which are necessary to provide more specific cost recovery for other regulatory actions taken by the agency; and 4) make other proposed amendments to Regulation III that will have no fee impact, but include clarifications, deletions, or corrections to existing rule language.

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<b>Public Agency Approving Project:</b> South Coast Air Quality Management District	<b>Agency Carrying Out Project:</b> South Coast Air Quality Management District
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**Exempt Status:**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Activities Covered by General Rule  
CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges

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**Reasons why project is exempt:** SCAQMD staff has reviewed the proposed project pursuant to: 1) CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(k) – General Concepts, the three-step process for deciding which document to prepare for a project subject to CEQA; and 2) CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 – Review for Exemption, procedures for determining if a project is exempt from CEQA. With respect to the proposed fee updates, new fees, amendments, and administrative changes in PAR III that are strictly administrative in nature, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Thus, the project is considered to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – Activities Covered by General Rule. Additionally, the entirety of the proposed project is statutorily exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges, because the proposed fee updates, new fees, and amendments to Rules 301, 303, 304, 304.1, 306, 307.1, 308, 309, 311, 313, 314, and 315 involve charges by public agencies for the purpose of meeting operating expenses and financial reserve needs and requirements.

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**Date When Project Will Be Considered for Approval (subject to change):**  
SCAQMD Governing Board Hearing: May 4, 2018; SCAQMD Headquarters

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<b>CEQA Contact Person:</b> Ms. Barbara Radlein	<b>Phone Number:</b> (909) 396-2716	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:bradlein@aqmd.gov">bradlein@aqmd.gov</a>	<b>Fax:</b> (909) 396-3982
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<b>Regulation Contact Person:</b> Ms. Elaine Shen	<b>Phone Number:</b> (909) 396-2715	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:eshen@aqmd.gov">eshen@aqmd.gov</a>	<b>Fax:</b> (909) 396-3324
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**Date Received for Filing:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ *(Signed Upon Board Approval)*  
Barbara Radlein  
Program Supervisor, CEQA Section  
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources